

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01603 240955Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----013974 240957Z /23

P 240808Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4709
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 1603

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS PRIORITY TO USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR
AS INFO SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GP
SUBJECT: GREEK REINTEGRATION INTO NATO

REF: STATE 42503 (171644Z FEB 78) (EXDIS)

1. WE CONSIDER PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL AN EXCELLENT
APPROACH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY WE
TOO BELIEVE NOW EXISTS TO SPEED UP PROCESS AIMED AT
GREEK REINTEGRATION.

2. WE WOULD ONLY UNDERLINE ONE ASPECT OF REFTEL'S
EVALUATION OF CARAMANLIS' DOMESTIC POLITICAL NEEDS.
NATO'S PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE QUICKLY RELAYED TO AN
ATHENS AUDIENCE THAT DOES NOT YET, TO SOME UNMEASURED
EXTENT, FIND NATO REENTRY ACCEPTABLE. IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE
THE ATTRACTIVENESS TO THE GREEK LEFT OF REENTRY, WHILE AT THE
SAME TIME NOT ALIENATING NATO SUPPORTERS AT THE CENTER AND RIGHT,
WE EXPECT THAT CARAMANLIS WILL STICK WITH THE TERM "SPECIAL
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RELATIONSHIP" -- ON HE DEEMS TOLERATED AND THUS SALEABLE.
NATO THEREFORE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER TALKING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE
ABOUT IT RATHER THAN TALKING "BY" GREECE.

3. PROGRESS TOWARD AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT -- THE
"BRIDGE" THAT CARAMANLIS MENTIONED TO SECRETARY VANCE
LAST MONTH AND THAT THE GOG CALLS THE "SPECIAL RELA-

TIONSHIP" -- WILL ALSO DIRECTLY IMPACT ON GREEK
WILLINGNESS TO SIGN THEIR DCA WITH US. THE TARGET OF THE
MAY 30-31 NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, REINFORCED AS IT IS
IN THE GREEK PUBLIC'S VIEW BY THE APPROACHING IZMIR
NATO COMMAND CHANGES, MIGHT EVEN OFFER US AN
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE A VANCE-PAPALIGOURAS DCA SIGNING
THEN IF SOME SORT OF REINTEGRATION PRINCIPLES OR
FRAMEWORK CAN ALSO BE AGREED.

4. THE FIRST FRESH INDICATION OF HOW SERIOUS THE
GREEKS ARE ABOUT THE PACE AND THE SUBSTANCE OF REINTE-
GRATION WILL COME AS THE GOG RESONPS TO NATO'S
QUESTIONS. THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN THIS EXPLORATORY
PHASE AND THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FOLLOW CAN BEST BE NUDGED
ALONG FROM ATHENS, AND THE EMBASSY STANDS READY TO
PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT. MILLS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS01603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-1119
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780219/aaaaapsz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7bdddad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 42503
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3494623
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK REINTEGRATION INTO NATO
TAGS: MPOL, GP, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7bdddad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014